

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 149

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate James and Elizabeth Crum of Carroll County on the celebration of their seventieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Crum of Carroll County were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, the couple met through a mutual friend, Massey Milam, who was dating Mrs. Crum's third cousin; he persuaded Mr. Crum to come along with him and meet Elizabeth Lewis; and

WHEREAS, following a blind date in 1937, after which they said it wasn't exactly love at first sight, the two became friends and, as time progressed, they developed an attraction to each other which grew into love; and

WHEREAS, James L. Crum proposed to Elizabeth Lewis during the winter of 1938; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Lewis did not tell her parents of the engagement; on the morning the two were to marry, she gave her sister Georgia a note about her plans, instructing her to give the note to her mother after school; and

WHEREAS, fifteen years old at the time, Elizabeth Lewis left school in December of 1938, knowing she would soon marry; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 1939, after telling her mother she was returning to school to see her friends, Elizabeth boarded the school bus to Clarksburg School from her Westport home; and

WHEREAS, dressed in a navy blue suit and a white blouse, she arrived at school, joined Mr. Crum and friends Edward and Orella Taylor, and traveled with the group to Fulton, Kentucky, in a 1935 Ford in search of a justice of the peace to perform the wedding ceremony; and

WHEREAS, though her parents, Ezra and Trula Lewis, were unaware of the wedding plans, James Crum was a familiar face at their home, as the couple had courted there, playing records together on the Victrola; and

WHEREAS, one of the couple's first stops after their return from Kentucky was to the home of Mrs. Crum's mother and father, who had learned of the marriage through the note from Georgia; though Mrs. Crum remembers her parents being upset at first, James Crum was soon wholly accepted into the family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crum believes that no one ever had a better mother or father-in-law than he had in the Lewis family; and

WHEREAS, after their stop at the Lewis home, the couple continued on to Mr. Crum's mother's house, where his sister-in-law had baked a chocolate wedding cake to celebrate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, the Crums did not take a honeymoon since their marriage was at the end of the depression; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Crum lived with Mr. Crum's mother for a year, raising a crop; the next year, Mrs. Crum's father and a friend built the couple a two-room house with a front and back porch, which was located on the Crums' farm; and

WHEREAS, though the house was simple, Mrs. Crum remembers their years in that home as some of the best years of their lives; and

WHEREAS, during his working years, James Crum farmed and supplemented his income by working at McKenzie Boat Co., Milan Arsenal, and the State Highway Department, from which he retired in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Crum always kept her home in order, cooking exceptional meals, raising her children, and assisting on the farm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Crum are the proud parents of two sons, Paul and Waldon Crum; and

WHEREAS, they are deeply admired by their six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, after seventy years of marriage, the Crums still reside in the brick home they built in 1958; their home is on the same hill and yard on which James L. Crum was born and raised; and

WHEREAS, for seventy years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored values, communication, respect, and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Crums' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate James L. and Elizabeth Crum on the celebration of their seventieth year of marriage and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.